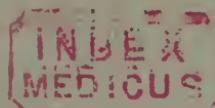


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In Memoriam

DR. LANDON R. LONGWORTH,

BORN DEC. 28, 1846.
DIED JAN. 14, 1879.



In Memoriam

DR. LANDON R. LONGWORTH,

BORN DEC. 25, 1846.

DIED JAN. 14, 1879.

AN ADDRESS READ AT THE COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES OF THE MEDICAL COLLEGE OF OHIO,
FEBRUARY 28, 1879.



LANDON RIVES LONGWORTH.

**H πον ρεῖσσον τῆς εὐγενίας
τὸ καλῶς πράσσειν.*

Virtuous and noble deeds are better than high descent.

LANDON RIVES LONGWORTH was born in Cincinnati, on December 25, 1846, the second son of Anne Maria Rives and Joseph Longworth. His mother was the daughter of a physician, Dr. Landon Rives, who for many years was professor of obstetrics in the Medical College of Ohio, as well as one of the most distinguished and successful practitioners of Cincinnati.

Dr. Longworth inherited many beautiful qualities of character, as well as talent and taste for art. The early education of our dead friend was obtained under the guidance of private tutors, until he became of age to prepare for college, when he was sent to the school of Mr. Bliss, and in 1863 was entered as freshman in Harvard College. He remained there until, in 1867, he received his degree of B. A., when he returned home, preparatory to going abroad. Whilst in

college he was particularly noted for his faculty of correct and sharp reasoning, so that Drs. Peabody and Bowman, the professors of ethics and metaphysics, frequently took occasion to laud him publicly. In 1868, he went to Europe for the purpose of studying art. He was prepared to go through with a thorough course of study, being prompted thereto by his love for painting and skill therein. While abroad he studied with Hans Gude, at Carlsruhe, and became a painter of no ordinary merit. Returning to his home, he found that art had not, as yet, taken hold of the hearts and heads of our people. More than this ; that he could find no companions in art worthy of his respect, who could act as a stimulus for further exertion, development, or suggestion, thus helping him to perfect himself, and at the same time assisting him to bring the beautiful to the thresholds of the many. His aim was, in this way, both to cultivate art, and give new pleasures and delights to many. Finding this impossible, he sought fields in which, with his immense wealth at his command, he could be the greatest benefactor to humanity.

It was but natural that, under these circumstances, he should select the profession he did—the one that brings man into closest contact with poverty, destitution, pain, and misery ; the one in

which more occasion for doing positive good is given than any other ; the one which requires abnegation of all pleasures, a holy life in the strictest sense, and the greatest amount of moral courage. We therefore find him entering the study of medicine, under the guidance of Dr. Edward Rives, in the spring of 1870. He then matriculated in the Medical College of Ohio, but in the fall went to New York, where he entered the College of Physicians and Surgeons, selecting for his preceptor Dr. H. B. Sands. Even whilst a second-course student he proved himself possessing more than ordinary talent and knowledge, so that, in the absence of the demonstrators of anatomy, it was not uncommon for the students to ask Longworth for a demonstration. At the end of his second course he passed his examination for the doctorate, showing how much knowledge he had acquired in the comparatively short space of time that he had devoted to medicine—two years—and in 1873 he graduated. He took the faculty prize in his class for a thesis on “The Ligature of the External Carotid”—a thesis remarkable not only for its ripeness, but also for its originality. Of this thesis, his teacher stated in the lecture-room that it set forth not only the feasibility of the ligature of the external carotid, but also laid down the positive indications regarding the

cases in which the operation ought to be preferred to the ligature of the common carotid. This thesis was afterward published in the Archives of Scientific and Practical Medicine, May, 1873, and received favorable comment not only at home, but also abroad.

After having graduated he again visited Germany, going first to Vienna, where he pursued special studies. He there sat under Hebra, for whom his admiration was unbounded; attended the post-mortems of Rokitansky; cultivated himself in the use of the instruments for special diagnosis—the ophthalmoscope with Jaeger and Arlt, the laryngoscope with Shrötter and Stoerck—and enjoyed the benefits of the many practical courses in operatic surgery that are delivered in the celebrated Vienna University. After remaining one term in Vienna, he went to Strasburg for the purpose of studying histology. There he entered the laboratory of Waldeyer, and in addition took the courses delivered by v. Recklinghausen. While at Strasburg he published his discoveries of the nerve terminations in the conjunctiva. This small article appears in the *Archiv f. Mikroskopische Anatomie* of Max Schultze, and can be considered as the beginning of his career as a microscopist.

Returning home in the fall of 1874, he was im-

mediately chosen as assistant demonstrator in the Medical College of Ohio, and lecturer on dermatology and pathologist to the Good Samaritan Hospital. From here we see him advancing rapidly, until at the time of his death he held the positions of professor of descriptive anatomy and clinical surgery at the Medical College of Ohio, pathologist to the Cincinnati Hospital, and lecturer on dermatology to the Good Samaritan Hospital. When he came back from Germany, he was not only ready, but anxious, to build up for himself a practice, choosing as specialties surgery and dermatology, both subjects for which his training and education best fitted him. He was anxious to do this, because he felt a desire to make himself not only worthy, but also independent of all the rights that birth and social position gave him. After having been eminently successful in his practice, performing many capital operations with brilliancy and excellent results, assisting in doubtful cases by advice and help, never flinching from duty nor leaving a brother practitioner in distress, upon the advice of his best friends, he decided to renounce the active practice entirely, and devote himself exclusively to scientific work and investigation.

It was about this time that he received the appointment of pathologist to the Cincinnati Hos-

pital, an appointment for which he was not only eminently fitted, but which also gave him more abundant material to carry out pathological research and study. With that energy characteristic of him, he turned his whole house into a huge medical workshop, retaining only two rooms for non-medical work—his sleeping apartment and a music-room; the latter a place where all the better musicians of the city were in the habit of meeting, an open house to them, the doors of which were unlocked at all times, and where they were always certain to find a cheerful welcome, and, if time allowed, a critical and appreciative listener. It was here that Dr. Longworth began his work on photography, injection, and the electric light, in all three branches accomplishing progress in a marked degree. The process of photography of microscopic preparations he developed, by means of new apparatus, to such an extent that all his results were very satisfactory—results that would have been given to the world in a short time, if he had lived, in the form of a work on microscopic anatomy, for which some negatives had already been prepared. The methods which he used were described fully in a lecture given by him before the Cincinnati Academy of Medicine, May 18, 1878, entitled “Hints on Improvements in Micro-Photography.”

During the last year his whole time was taken up by injecting and the electric light. He devised a new instrument for injecting, his injection mass being of his own invention as well; but the latter still wanting in a few minutiae to make it perfect. In the last session of the College he used the electric candle for his demonstrations in anatomy, and had just completed the construction of a lantern, by means of which he could throw the images of solid bodies upon the screen, thus enabling him to perform dissections of organs, such as the brain, before a class of 350, showing each and all of them every step, by means of the large picture thrown upon the screen.

In his studies on electricity he even went so far as to construct a new electric candle, for which he was granted a patent on the 21st of May, 1878.

Thus he lived and worked—life and work being synonymous with him—until the 5th of January, when he was taken ill with pneumonia, developing into a typhoid form, which ended fatally upon the morning of the 14th of January, 1878. There is no doubt but that his incessant labor and mental activity played an important role in producing the fatal end, which we are hardly accustomed to meet with in a man only thirty-two years old.

In addition, it may be stated that he had, some months previously, wounded himself at an autopsy,

after which he had a short attack of septicæmia, which had, however, left no apparent traces. Beside which, he had been working very much in an atmosphere loaded with chloride of sulphur. All these elements must be taken into consideration in order to explain the end which gave grief not only to his friends, but left a community in mourning.

We find in Dr. Longworth traits only found in great men—reasoning faculties trained and developed to their utmost capacity; love and taste for every thing beautiful; an ardor and enthusiasm seemingly incessant, coupled with endurance and patience.

Longworth was a cosmopolitan in the most liberal phase of the word. In science, in art, in religion, nothing struck him as being strange, and in the shortest appreciable time he was well accustomed to any usage or custom. His knowledge was by no means confined to medicine. An excellent linguist, an eminent physicist, an acceptable musician, a good painter, were united in this one man. His principle was to learn *ex ovo*. From this he could deduct, in a short time, what it would take others some time to acquire. This power, added to a memory that seemed never to permit anything to drop its grasp, and we have the secret of the immense amount of knowledge

acquired by a man comparatively so young as Dr. Longworth was. He was thorough in every thing he did, and in doing he forgot himself, so that frequently he would miss a meal, an experiment engrossing his attention, or would sit up over a book until the gray light of dawn would give him warning of the approach of day. In his daily life he was modest, unobtrusive, quiet, indeed, somewhat of a recluse, always willing to go out of his way to serve a friend, never thinking of himself in giving pleasure or comfort to others, frequently doing things that were most distasteful to him, in order to please somebody whom he respected or loved. He was tolerant to an extreme, only discussing with those who had a share upon his intimacy, but then entering the discussion with all the force and earnestness he could bring to bear upon it. He despised nothing and nobody, being charitable, appreciating faults, but being too modest to make much of them. It is needless to state that he was a friend to the poor. The character that has been so briefly sketched demands this, however, for its completion. His help to the indigent was never given but in a way so delicate, so altogether unsuggestive, that the object of charity disappeared, but was overshadowed by the manner in which the aid was given. At the sick-bed of the poor he was the true physician, and

up to the last day of his activity he was engaged in visiting some indigent patients who had called upon him for aid.

Such was the man whom we have lost. To patients a conscientious physician, to the student a friend and reliable teacher, and to his colleagues a brother. The scientific world has lost in him a man who, on account of his love for truth, his exactness, his want of personal ambition, would, in a very short time, have become an honor to his country, and a representative American scientist.

F. FORCHHEIMER, M. D.

